

LOL-HECO-IR-1

Ref: "Phase 1, Distribution Substation Modifications. This item involves modifications at ... Kuhio Substation ... Waikiki Substation ... Ena Substation" (HECO Application, page 9)
Hawaii Administrative Rules §11-200-6 "Applicant actions. (a) Chapter 343, HRS, shall apply to persons who are required to obtain an agency approval prior to proceeding with: (1) Implementing actions which are either located in certain specified areas ... (b) Chapter 343, HRS, establishes certain categories of action which require the agency processing an applicant's request for approval to prepare an environmental assessment. There are seven geographical categories and two administrative categories. (1) The seven geographical categories are: ... (E) Any use within the Waikiki area of Oahu, the boundaries of which are delineated in the land use ordinance as amended, establishing the 'Waikiki Special District'".

Question(s):

Doesn't the substation modifications trigger the requirement to conduct an Environmental Review?

HECO Response:

The proposed work for the Kuhio, Waikiki, and Ena Substations as part of this project, in itself, should be "exempt" from the preparation of an environmental assessment, as described in Hawaii Administrative Rules §11-200-8. As described in the Application on page 9, the work at these substations involves the replacement of existing equipment and associated facilities and the installation of 46kV interrupters. The replacements will occur in generally the same location, serve the same purpose, and have substantially the same operating characteristics as the existing equipment and associated facilities. The 46kV switch interrupters are an accessory apparatus attached to existing 46kV switches. The interrupters are small in relation to the switches and would not alter the overall visual characteristics of the substations.